

If Interested, Be There

Centennial Plans Explained At Public Meeting Tuesday



The Kings Mountain Centennial Commission, Inc., plans a community-wide meeting Tues., Mar. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in The Mountaineer Room of the Community Center to inform citizens about plans for the October 1-6 celebration.

Also at this meeting the audience will meet the members of the executive committee of the centennial commission. "We want to stress how important it is

to the success of our celebration that interested citizens, businessmen, industrialists and retailers, or their company representatives, attend next Tuesday's meeting," said Charles Mauney, commission co-chairman.

"We want to explain to everyone that this celebration will be a little different from previous civic promotions which normally costs the businesses and in-

dustrial plants money" Mauney continued. "This particular celebration is geared to make money for most of the downtown businesses and will give all of our businesses an opportunity to participate in the celebration."

Another purpose of the meeting is to sell all citizens on the fact that this is "their celebration and that their help and advice is wanted and needed in planning

it," Mauney said.

The five-point goal of this centennial celebration is to (1) create a new civic awareness among all Kings Mountain citizens; (2) uncover new civic leaders; (3) stimulate local economy; (4) to honor our heritage; and (5) to focus attention on tomorrow.

The centennial commission executive committee is made up of 16 offices and members include:

Active General Co-chairman - Mrs. W.T. Weir and Charles Mauney; Secretary - Marvin L. Teer; Headquarters Chairman - Mrs. George H. Houser; Revenue Division - Charles D. Blanton; Participation Division - (Ladies) Mrs. Raymond Holmes and (Men) Charles E. Dixon; Spectacle Division - Bill G. Bates; Special Events Division - Lyn Cheshire; Special Days Sub-Division - Mrs. Aubrey Mauney;

Operating Capital Division - J.C. Bridges; Treasurer - Tom Tate; Student Activities Coordinator - Scott Moss; Special Advisory Members - Mayor John Henry Moss, Mrs. Lynne W. Mauney and Mrs. Hazel Fryer; Spectacle Ticket Division - Shuford K. Peeler and Rev. M.L. Campbell; Publicity Division - Mrs. James E. Herndon Jr.; Decorations Division - Bill H. Brown; and Insurance Division - John D. Warlick.

10¢ Kings Mountain Mirror

VOL. 3 NO. 28
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1974
KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA 28086

Redevelopment Project Okay For Now, But....



Photo by Jay Ashley

BY-PASS PLANS - Mayor John Moss displays the by-pass plans recently received through Ken Mauney, District Highway Engineers. Moss said he is hopeful the plans will be

finalized by July 1. The plans will be on display in the Council Chambers at City Hall beginning today at 10 a.m. and thereafter from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

City Receives Plans For The 74 By-Pass

Preliminary plans for the construction of the long awaited US 74 by-pass around Kings Mountain came to Mayor John Moss Wednesday.

Moss said the plans were delivered by District Engineer for the Department of Transportation, Ken Mauney.

After 20 years of petitioning and letter writing to State officials, the by-pass was finally approved under the Governor's Seven-Year Highway Construction Plan introduced last October.

The by-pass will begin at I-85 and end just west of the Bethware Elementary School. The seven-plus mile stretch will cost an estimated

\$14.1 million and is expected to be completed in 1978-79. Initial plans set right of way acquisitions to be purchased at a cost of \$900,000 in 1974-75 with construction beginning in 1976.

Mayor Moss stated "the Department of Transportation and the citizens of Kings Mountain should hope for finalization of plans around July 1."

The by-pass plans must also gain final approval from The U.S. Dept. of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

The mayor added a public hearing will be held in Kings Mountain on the by-pass issue and the date will be announced by the state Dept. of Transportation.

In Lake Pier Question 'I Would Appreciate A Variance' - Young

Buddy Young has sunk money and pilings into his John H. Moss Reservoir property and says he still doesn't know how the situation will be resolved.

Young's creosote pilings have become the center of discussion in recent weeks by the Lake Authority and the Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners.

The matter began when the Lake Authority voted to approve a report from consulting engineer for the Reservoir, Tom Cox. Cox asked the Authority to approve only pilings constructed of reinforced concrete, either of formed, poured in place construction or pre-cast prestressed units in its March 7 meeting.

At that meeting Buddy Young told the board he was forced to go ahead with sinking creosote poles because the water was rising fast.

After hearing Young's plea, the Lake Authority voted three to one to allow Young to go ahead with his pier.

In a telephone interview, Young said he thought the matter was settled until he discovered the Board of Commissioners have the final say. In their March 11 meeting, the board voted three to two to require "all piers built before the recommendations were adopted to change to conform with the rules." This vote was then overruled by another vote which stated members of the Commission should meet with Young to "get the matter straightened out."

Buddy Young was contacted this past Friday and said he had not yet heard anything from "anyone on the situation."

"When plans for the lake were announced," Young said, "you couldn't have found a more enthusiastic person than me. My whole family is water-oriented and we decided to build on the lake."

Young said he sold his home at Lake Norman, as well as his residence in Shelby to build his current house.

He said, "when I decided to sell the Lake Norman house, I took John Henry (mayor) around Norman and showed him the problems they are having. He concurred that the lake in Kings Mountain should be the best possible."

Young continued, "I built the home in '72 on the lake. I saw John Halloween night when the drain was being filled with cement and commented that the water would be rising fast. I sunk all my money into the home and wanted to start the piers before the water rose too high. John kept saying 'don't worry every time I mentioned building a pier but no rules were established."

"On Jan. 30 of this year I really began to worry. My land has a very steep slope towards the lake and the water was rising about three to five feet a day. I wrote letters to the Lake Authority outlining my plans for a pier. I told them what I had planned and said I would bear all the expenses but I had to do something."

"About two weeks ago I went to see John Henry and showed him the plans I had for the pier but I couldn't get anything definite from him. Finally I just couldn't wait any longer and I went ahead with the creosote poles. I contacted several members of the Lake Authority and city commissioners and some of them came over to the house. They said they could appreciate my predicament and expressed concern over the matter of rules for pier construction, that none had been made."

Buddy Young stated, "I did not have any intentions of violating the law and I care as much about the lake as anyone, maybe even more, but I was trapped. I had to do something and do it quick. Because of the slope of my lot I had to use creosote poles. Cement pilings would have been impossible to sink. I'll admit the first order is the quality of the water but I don't think the oil from 31 poles will affect the water as much as the debris lying on the bottom of the lake right now."

Young, who is also chairman of the county Board of Adjustments said "I think I should be allowed a variance in this case. Not long ago we (board of adjustments) had to grant variances to people around the lake. One man had built his home too close to his property line. There have been other cases. We could have been hard-nosed and gone by the exact letter of the law, but these were hardship cases, cases of circumstance, and we granted variances. I would appreciate a variance in my case."

annually, are "having lots of problems."

The local director of redevelopment stated one thing that hurts the Tenth District is that applications for building public housing are no longer being taken. "Kings Mountain is lucky that our application was approved before the cutoff date."

The status of low-rent housing in the Tenth District is critical according to the figures White offered. "We have 1319 units of low-rent housing in the Tenth with another 250 under or just before construction. 100 of the 250 will be in Kings Mountain, bringing our total to 300 units. Unfortunately applications for

an additional 850 units in the Tenth District were rejected because they were received after funds had been frozen and applications were not being accepted."

White reported a major concern is the number of units needed in the Tenth District according to the official waiting list. "The official

list", White said, "contains 2875 names but that's not counting the many people who say to themselves 'it's no use trying'."

A recent piece of legislation designed on breaking up the log jam was recently passed by the Senate. It was sponsored by John Sparkman of (See REDEVELOPMENT 3A)

Chamber Getting Response On Membership Opinion Poll

By JAY ASHLEY
Mirror Staff Writer

The Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors held its meeting Tuesday afternoon and reviewed the first set of replies received from a recent opinion poll.

Although initial response was low, Chamber president Frank Sincx said "many

items listed on the poll should be taken under consideration for projects next year."

Lucille Williams, Chamber secretary, said 290 copies of the poll had been mailed and although response was low, others should be in the mail to the chamber.

Taking the first 14 replies, Sincx prepared a summary of answers and suggestions for the members present. Parts of

the opinion poll were:

(1) Do you favor an airport for Kings Mountain? Six answered "yes" and four voted "no". Comments were "doubt if it could be justified", "that's a good question. How could it be financed" and one stating finance would be a problem but added, "federal funds have supplied over 100 per cent in South Carolina."

Sincx said the issue would be a good question for the chamber to probe in the coming year.

(2) What new projects would you like to see the chamber undertake? Some answers were: Urge city and citizens to clean our city. Downtown is very dirty. Attracting new retail outlets. Concentrated effort to build a shopping district worthy of the name. Support an airport. Streets leading into downtown need paving.

As far as attracting new retail outlets, realtor Larry

Hamrick said the city has a "rental space problem for many retailers." Hamrick said some space is too expensive or perhaps inadequate for some retail purposes and it was often difficult to find exactly what a potential retailer wanted. Frank Sincx said even though rental space might be a problem, "we still have more retail outlets and places for retail outlets than we did four years ago."

(3) Do we do enough for local merchants?

Two answered "yes" and one "no". Other comments included "enlarge involvement", "should merge with Merchants Association" and "no...but not exactly sure what Chamber's role should be. Perhaps old idea of merging Chamber and Merchants Association should be revised, with Merchants Association being a major

(See CHAMBER p. 5A)

Thompson, Burlison Featured

WBTB Channel Three will air a 30-minute sports special on N.C. State basketball All-Americans David Thompson and Tommy Burlison Friday night beginning at 10:30.

Jim Thacker, WBTB sports director, will be narrator of the program which will feature in-depth interviews with the two players' families, teammates and coaches.

Title of the special is "Native Sons of the Wolfpack."

Thompson, of course, is a native of Shelby and a former basketball great at Crest High School. Burlison is a native of Newland, where he was an All-American at Avery County High School, and has relatives living in Kings Mountain.

The great duo recently led the Wolfpack to the ACC and Eastern Regional titles and will lead State into NCAA semi-finals action Saturday against defending national champion UCLA.

Bloodmobile Visit Here Fri., Mar. 29

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit Kings Mountain Fri., Mar. 29 from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. in the Mountaineer Room at the Community Center.

Bill Grissom, local chairman of the Bloodmobile, said the goal for this visit is 125 pints and urges citizens and businessmen to stress the importance of donating to the Bloodmobile.



Immunization Clinic

SHOTS FOR SHANES - As fate would have it, two young men named Shane visited the county's Childhood Disease Immunization Clinic Monday and were a bit less than happy over the prospect of getting shots. Their fears however were allayed when State Board of Health representative Charles Philbeck immunized them with a "jet injector". The injector works on pressure and there is no needle. The mobile clinic was in the Kings Mountain area Monday through Thursday and will return after the Easter holidays. Verna Bradley and Beth Clark of the County Board of Health reminds residents a general clinic is held in Kings Mountain every Friday from 9-11 a.m. at the Community Center. At left is Shane Adams and on the right is Shane Briggs.

Photos by Jay Ashley



By JAY ASHLEY
Mirror Staff Writer

"The money for our two projects in Kings Mountain is reserved for us, but the situation of other neighborhood renewal projects is uncertain", said Gene White, executive director of the KM Redevelopment Commission.

White made the statement following a trip he and Mayor John Moss made to Washington, D.C. to meet with the North Carolina Congressional delegation to discuss problems in the housing and community development programs.

White and Moss represented the Tenth Congressional District at the "Legislative Day" meeting held in Washington Mar. 14.

The purpose of the meeting, sponsored by the Carolinas Council of Housing, Redevelopment and Codes Officials, was to bring to the attention of every Congressman the various problems on the local level in housing and community development brought about by the lack of funds for community development, the uncertain status of pending legislation and other in decision on the Federal level. The entire North Carolina Congressional delegation was in attendance with the exception of Cong. Wilmer Mizell.

The Mayor, or other officials representing each Congressional district, was asked to relate how his area would be affected by continued indecision and inadequate legislation at the Federal level.

Mayor Moss outlined housing and community development problems in Gastonia, Shelby, Morganton, Hickory, Forest City and Kings Mountain.

Each spokesman outlined a long list of serious problems in housing and community development in their respective cities.

In citing the problems of the Tenth District, Mayor Moss asked the delegation to "join us in putting our shoulders to the wheel in obtaining satisfactory legislation in the housing and community development fields."

Cong. L.H. Fountain of the Second District, sponsored the meeting in Washington. In speaking on behalf of the state delegation, Fountain expressed great concern for the problems discussed and urged that his colleagues push for adequate housing and community development legislation.

Gene White said Kings Mountain is "not in bad shape in relation to other cities in the Tenth District." White said cities such as Shelby and Hickory, who have Neighborhood Development Programs that are funded